

# **SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA EXAMINER**

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## **FILNER ASKS FOR FUNDS TO INVESTIGATE**

### **Congressman Bob Filner: Huge underground aquifer may help solve region's water crisis**

Congressman Bob Filner announced recently that part of the solution to San Diego's water crisis may lie beneath the ground in a 125 square mile South Bay aquifer. "It's time for San Diego to start looking for some innovative solutions to our water problem," said Filner. "This aquifer could dramatically reduce our reliance on water imported from other areas of the country."

The San Diego Formation is a porous underground aquifer that may hold up to 1,000,000 acre feet of usable water. An acre foot is

approximately enough water to cover a football field to a depth of one foot - enough for two small families for one year.

Filner has asked the House Appropriations Committee for \$1.25 million to investigate the idea. Federal support would allow the Sweetwater Water Authority to place about 20 monitoring wells, perform chemical analysis and pump tests, and define the amount of usable water at each site. If the results of the investigation were positive, non-federal funds would be used to expand the use of this

resource.

The aquifer could be used to hold local groundwater, reducing southern California's need for imported water. It might also be used to store imported water. During times when imported water is plentiful and less expensive, the Water Authority could use the aquifer as a massive underground holding tank, storing water for use when imported water is both more scarce and more expensive.

"If things works out the way we hope, this could be a win for ratepayers as well," said Filner.